

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02981 262149Z

71

ACTION SS-25

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R 261510Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 504

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2981

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: HARASSMENT OF SOVIET JEWS DURING THE CONGRESS

REF: MOSCOW 2631

1. ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY, ONE OF THE SPOKESMEN FOR THE MUSCOVITE JEWISH DISSIDENT COMMUNITY, GAVE EMBOFF A RUNDOWN ON HARASSMENT OF SOVIET JEWS SO FAR DURING THE CONGRESS. HE SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW, NO SOVIET JEWS HAD BEEN ARRESTED SPECIFICALLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONGRESS. MANY ACTIVIST JEWS HAD, HOWEVER, BEEN INFORMED THAT THEY SHOULD LEAVE MOSCOW (AND IN SOME CASES LARGE PROVINCIAL CITIES) DURING THE CONGRESS PERIOD. OTHERS WERE CALLED IN TO THE LOCAL POLICE, TOLD THAT THEY WERE FORBIDDEN TO TRAVEL TO MOSCOW DURING THE CONGRESS, AND IN SOME INSTANCES HAD THEIR PASSPORTS CONFISCATED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD GET THEM BACK AFTER THE CONGRESS.

2. A NUMBER OF JEWS NEVERTHELESS HAS TRIED TO COME TO MOSCOW FROM VARIOUS PROVINCIAL CITIES. NEARLY ALL OF THESE ATTEMPTS FAILED. SHCHARANSKIY SAID THAT HE KNEW PERSONALLY OF JEWS FROM KIEV, ODESSA, KISHINEV AND MINSK WHO, THOUGH HOLDING VALID RESERVATIONS, HAD BEEN DENIED PERMISSION TO BOARD TRAINS AND PLANES IN ORDER TO COME TO MOSCOW.

3. SHCHARANSKIY SAYS THAT HE EXPECTS THAT THIS LOW-LEVEL

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HARASSMENT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE CONGRESS ENDS, AND IN

PARTICULAR UNTIL THE WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS WHO HAVE COME
TO COVER THE CONGRESS HAVE DEPARTED.
STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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